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U.S. to Act Against 150 For Banned Cuba Trip

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State Department legal experts say that Monday's Supreme Court decision upholding the Secretary of State's power to bar American travel to Cuba will trigger action against about 150 students who defied the ban in 1963 and 1964.

The 6-to-3 majority opinion of the court also will affect Baltimore newsman William Worthy Jr., whose passport has been withheld for the last eight years because he defied the State Department ban against travel to Communist China.

Worthy, who writes for the Baltimore Afro-American, is now traveling without a passport through North Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Indonesia. He is scheduled to visit Cuba for the fifth time since the Castro revolution, according to his newspaper.

State Department officials said the court ruling will not result in any changes in policy on granting permission to visit Cuba and Communist China. Legal experts said that the U.S. Government has contended it has the right to restrict travel to certain areas at certain times but it has allowed reporters to go to both Cuba and Communist China.

Each case is reviewed individually to determine if there is a good reason to permit such travel and provide assurance that it will not be contrary to U.S. national interest.

The prosecution of about 150 students who defied warnings against travel to Cuba in 1963 and 1964 has been pending in New York City awaiting the outcome of the Supreme Court decision in the case of Louis Zemel.

However, Monday's decision did not say if there is authority to assess criminal penalties against those who defy the ban.